



Share a book everyday to create a reader for a lifetime!



Title: The Art Lesson

Author and Illustrator: Tomie dePaola

Book Summary: Tommy loves to draw and wants to go to school for art lessons. But with eight crayons and one sheet of paper, will he learn to be an artist?

Before Reading, use the following conversation starters to engage your child's interest in the book.

To generate interest in the book, talk with your child about what art lessons are.

To develop book awareness, explain to your child that this book is written and illustrated by one person. Tomie dePaola has published over 200 children's books over the past 35 years, and has won numerous awards, including both a Caldecott Honor Award and a Newbery Honor Award.

During Reading, use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.

To develop a sense of individuality, discuss with your child that each of Tommy's friends enjoys doing something different.. But also discuss the similarities between the children and your child. Children come from all different families. Talking about these differences and similarities helps develop respect for others.

To build verbal skills, ask your child to describe the illustrations. Encourage him/her to notice the details of the pictures and describe them.

After Reading, use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.

To stimulate conversation, ask your child open-ended questions about what Tommy did to become an artist. Talk about talents your child has that s/he would like to learn more about.

To promote daily book sharing, set aside some time every day to establish it as part of your family's routine. Choose books that interest your child. Allow him/her to hold the books and turn the pages. Ask your child to "read" the pages by talking about the illustrations.

To encourage creativity, help your child make an Imagination Mural. Ask your child to draw pictures of anything s/he can think of. If s/he needs an idea to get started, suggest different topics. For example, your favorite animal, where you like to play outside, a self-portrait, or your neighborhood. As your child finishes each one, hang it on the wall or fridge to create his/her Imagination Mural.

Onslow County Partnership for Children



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